



HARLOW CRANE WAS A MAN WHO LIVED WITHOUT RULES... HE LIVED BY A LAW UNTO HIMSELF, UNTIL HE LEARNED THERE IS NO PLACE ON EARTH OR ELSEWHERE, FOR A...

MAN ALONS





NO, YOU WON'T. IN EXACTLY TWENTY MINUTES, YOU'LL NEED YOUR HEART MEDICINE-AND THERE'S NOBODY HERE TO GIVE IT TO YOU. ALL THE YOU WON'T-SERVANTS ARE OFF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER DO THAT, HARLOW! SURELY, YOU'LL UNTIE ME IF I PROMISE



PROMISES? COME NOW, TAYLOR.

I'VE BEEN AROUND YOU TOO LONG.



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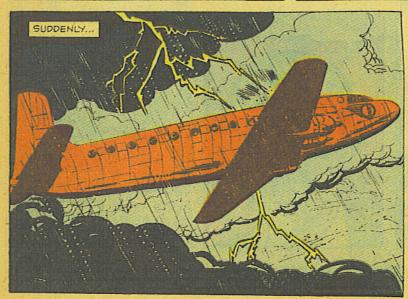
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DOWN, DOWN, DOWN PLUMMETED



















I KILLED A MAN,
BACK IN THE STATES...
AND I RAN AWAY HERE.
THIS IS MY PUNISHMENT,
I NEED SOMEONE...
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND
THAT?



























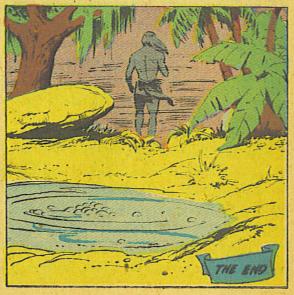


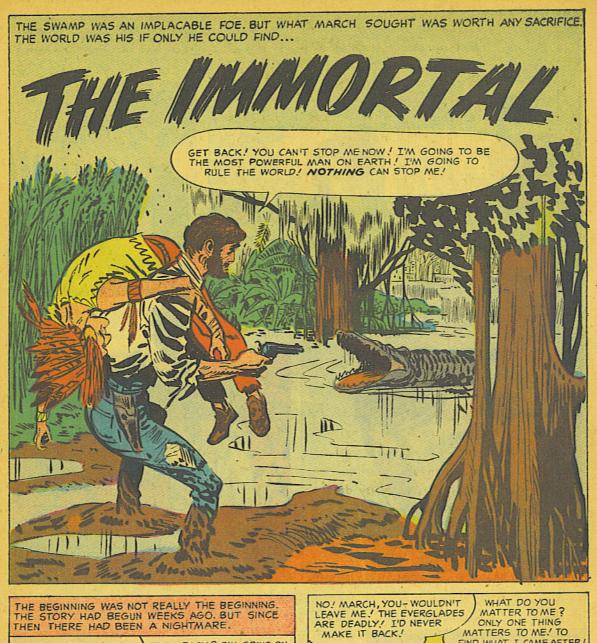




















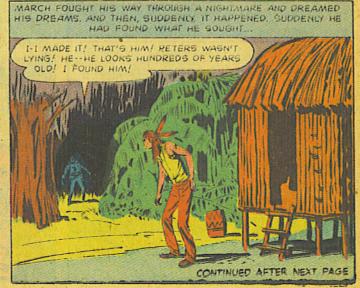




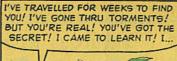


ONLY THE BIRDS AND THE CREEPING THINGS OF THE SWAMP HEARD THAT, A MAN PLEADED, BUT WHAT WAS THAT TO MARCH?





















ALMOST, MARCH USED HIS GUN, BUT HE WAS CLEVER.





































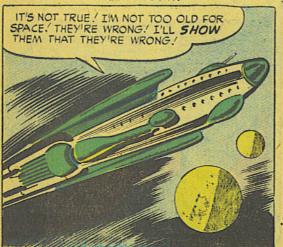


OUT HERE IN THE BLACK WELL OF INFINITY IS YOUR WORLD, JUST AS YOU FIRST DREAMED ABOUT IT LONG AGO. BUT NOW THE DREAM IS OVER. SPACE IS FOR THE YOUNG. AND YOU'RE...

The OLD MAAN



AT FIRST, YOU DON'T WEEP. YOU RE-READ THE ORDER FOR THE HUNDRETH TIME AND THE TEARS ARE SCALDING BEHIND YOUR EYES, BUT, THE IRON OF DEFIANCE IS STILL IN YOU...





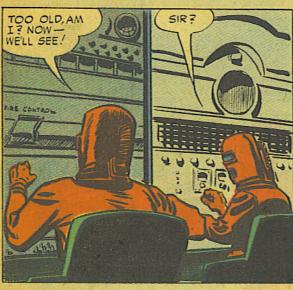


MERELY—MAINTAIN FORMATION.
THE WORDS ARE SO DRY... YOU
SPEAK THEM SO CALMLY. AND YET
IN YOUR MIND'S EYE, YOU CAN
SEE THAT FORMATION. THE BEAUTY
OF IT. THE DEADLY LOVELINESS...



YOU'RE A PART OF ALL THAT AND THEY SAY THAT YOU'RE TOO OLD! WELL-YOU'LL SHOW THEM...





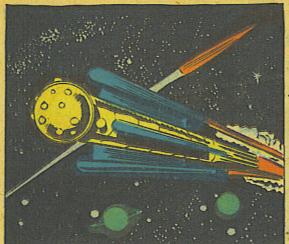


YES. NOW — YOU'LL SHOW THEM. INSTRUMENTS DO THE CHECKING, THE COMPUTING. BUT INSTRUMENTS CANNOT THINK. IN THE END, IT IS YOUR BRAIN WHICH MUST MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. .

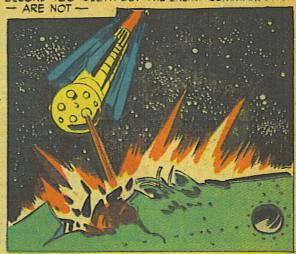




IN THE END YOU ARE THE DECIDING FACTOR, AND YOU'VE DONE THIS SO MANY TIMES, YOU WAIT, SMILING BEHIND YOUR HELMET BUT-THE SMILE DIES.



IT CAN'T HAPPEN! BUT IT DOES! YOU FIRE A HEART-BEAT TOO LATE. YOUR REFLEXES ARE A SPLIT SECOND TOO SLOW. BUT THE ENEMY COMMANDER'S — ARE NOT —





YOU'RE NOT BADLY DAMAGED, THE ENEMY HITS AND RUNS. BUT NOW—YOU KNOW, AND THE MEN KNOW TOO. THEY CAN NO LONGER—DEPEND ON YOU.

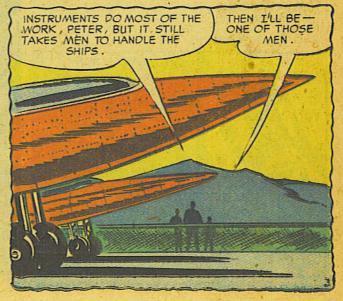


YOU SIT STIFFLY, AWAITING ORDERS FROM COMMAND. AND SOMEHOW YOU FIND YOURSELF THINKING BACK TO A DAY WHEN YOUR FATHER AND YOUR OLDER BROTHER TOOK YOU ON AN OUTING...



THE ROCKETS ARE FAST. SO FAST THAT ONLY CERTAIN MEN CAN FLY THEM. YOU HAVE TO BE YOUNG — AND QUICK. SO QUICK THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT.





EVEN THEN YOU'D HAD THE DREAM. YOU WOULD BE ONE OF THOSE MEN. IT WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT HAD



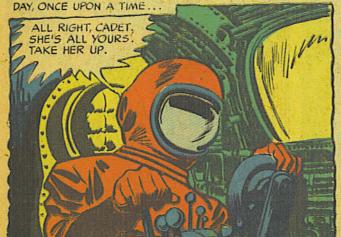








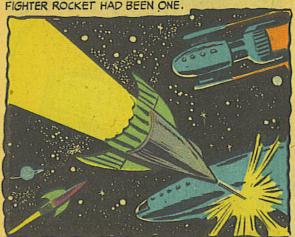
50-IT ENDS. YOU LET SHAW TAKE OVER BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE IT NOW. YOU ARE TOO OLD YOU JUST STAND THERE. FEELING DRAINED. LIKE YOU FELT ON ANOTHER



AH, THE SWEETNESS OF THAT DAY, YOUR FIRST SOLO, YOU'D FELT DRAINED AND AFRAID, AND THEN — ALL SPACE HAD BEEN OPENED BEFORE YOU...



HOW YOU'D LAUGH. WITH THE SHEER JOY OF IT.
WHEN YOU WENT INTO BATTLE A FEW MONTHS
LATER—WHEN THE SHIPS FROM OUTER SPACE
APPEARED AND ATTACKED EARTH -- YOU AND YOUR



FIRST YOU'D BEEN A FIGHTER PILOT, THEN THEY'D GIVEN YOU COMMAND OF A DESTROYER, NOW YOU COMMAND A CRUISER, BUT TIME HAD ROBBED YOU.



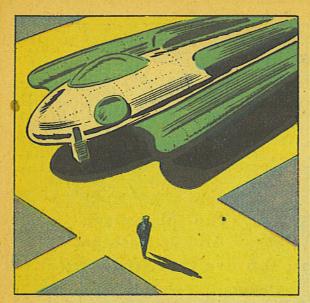


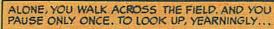








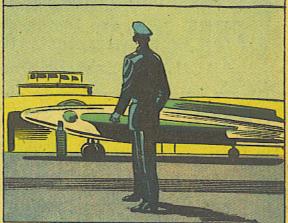








ALMOST, YOU GIVE WAY TO YOUR EMOTIONS, BUT NOT YET. YOUR CREW CAN STILL SEE YOU FROM THE SHIP. 50 YOU WALK ON, AND THEN, AT LAST, YOU TURN, FOR ONE LAST LOOK AT HER.





THERE WAS SOMETHING UNCANNY AND AWESOME ABOUT THIS PLACE WHERE NO WHITE MAN HAD EVER SET FOOT. BUT EVEN MORE UNCANNY WAS THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF THE ...

WIBS of the Alillis























IF IT'S A
NET, IT
WAS MADE
BY HUMANS!
WE MUST
HAVE
BEEN
CAUGHT
BY
MISTAKE!
DROPPED IT SAW
US CLEARLY!
PERHAPS MEN DID
DROP IT, BUT-WHAT
KIND OF MEN?

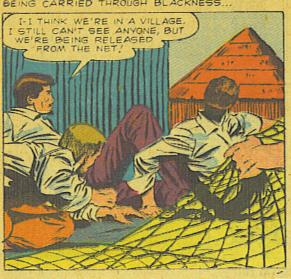








YOU STRAIN TO HEAR. BUT THERE ARE NO MORE WORDS, THERE IS ONLY THE WEIRD SENSATION OF BEING CARRIED THROUGH BLACKNESS ...



YOU TRY TO SEE ... AND YOU ARE HUSTLED THROUGH THE DARKNESS WITH YOUR COMPANIONS ...



MOORE, DID YOU I DIDN'T SEE THEM! AT LEAST, NOT CLEARLY. WHAT I SAW DIDN'T SEE THEM NORMAL MEN! WHO.







NO! YOU DON'T THEN WE FOUND WHAT WE NO. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WE'RE TO BE KILLED! AT SUN' RISE! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID! CAME AFTER! WE'VE MADE
THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY
OF THE CENTURY! WE'VE GOT
TO TALK TO THE NATIVES... THEY ...













WHY SHOULD THE NATIVES WANT TO KILL YOU? YOU DON'T KNOW... AND YOU DON'T LOOK BACK. YOU RUN, UNTIL YOU CAN RUN NO FARTHER...





YOU'RE LOST, AND IN THE MORNING YOU'LL BE HONTED DOWN, BUT EVEN THEN, THAT ISN'T WHAT HURTS KENYON THE MOST...

IT'S NOT FAIR!
IF WE COULD
FIND THE
GIANTS...

FORGET THE GIANTS! OUR LIVES ARE AT STAKE ... WE'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING!









THERE IS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, YOU HEAD BACK ALONG THE TRAIL, TREMBLING IN EVERY NERVE, BUT IT MUST BE DONE...



ONLY ONE CHANCE IS LEFT! YOU WAIT, AND AT LAST A NATIVE APPEARS! YOU SEE HIM...AND YOU GASP! BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR WONDERING...









